

also protested against any thing of the kind in this State. He had better recuse, but his protest will bring to pass the very thing which he respires. It will be for better for the present Anti-Slavery to be professedly still on the subject, or at least not to sanction the movements of Garrison & his party, if they do not wish to see a new organization here. The moment they do it, the former will be burst & the gag thrown away.

I have been sorry to learn of late, that a young man, (Mr. Parker Pittsburg) who for a time last year was agent for the Anti-Slavery cause in your State, I labored, as far as I could learn, with much ardor, is opposed to your Society. At first, he said, he favored it, but for certain reasons, which I have not yet learned, he is now strongly with Garrison & the Old Society, he has lately been appointed Agent for the Society in this State, & I expect he will accept the appointment. They have also written to him from the Old Society in your State to become their Agent at his own time; but I think, (as I am glad of it) that he will prefer to remain here. He is a young man of strong mind, determined energy & frankness, (almost recklessness) of character, thoroughly in his principles & position to Slavery; but I am sorry to say, rather inclined to fall in with the views of Garrison on other subjects. I hope, however, that in this State he will have little or nothing to say about extraneous matters, but stick close to Anti-Slavery. If so, I think he will do more good here than he could in Massachusetts.

I have run over at a hasty rate & almost beyond bounds till my sheet is about full, & have hardly touched upon the points of Mr. St. Clair's letter. But I must say a few words on some topics there suggested.

1. As it respects an Agent. The object of such an Agent, I suppose, would be, as Mr. St. Clair expresses it, "to get into the influence of the New Abolitionist & of your new Society" into this state. This I shall like for one. I suppose the business of the Agent would be, if I understand it, <sup>give</sup> Lectures on the subject of Slavery & get subscribers for the Abolitionist, the organ of your Society. I should certainly wish for this

nation - who sacrificed ease & comfort & even exposed life for  
the good of the oppressed - I honor, respect & revere Wm.  
Loyd Garrison; but, so far as he is a non-existent, no-human-gov.  
overnment, coming-rightly, man, he has been deceived by the  
great many <sup>The Garrison cause</sup> of men; he has been shown of his strength &  
glory; he has become like other men, who have come under the  
influence of strange delusions & fatal errors. But enough of this.

There is, I have reason to believe, a strong influence in favor  
of Garrison in this State on the grounds which I have mentioned; -  
not that many (perhaps a few) except his adherents & per-  
mission principles; but they bear down to the man. There is, too, I think,  
a want of correct & full information & less understanding of the  
true grounds of the separation in your State, one among the  
most who are some influential Abolitionists in this State, Dr. if  
they had a clear & full view of the object, would be with you.  
Still there are many, (strictly laymen - & is this any distinguish-  
ment?) who do understand the matter, & on whose co-operation  
you may rely. As to Mr. Rogers, Editor of the Hr. Freedom, he  
is doubtless fully with Garrison, & could, I believe, have come  
out long ago against the other organization if he had tried  
to have done it. If he had, & should he now do it to any extent, I think  
the Paper would go down; & even as it is, there is a great deal  
of dissatisfaction with it. It is not much a Paper as it wants;  
& unless there is some change for the better, it will not  
be sustained. It is not much a Paper as I can recommend to my  
people, or use much influence to get into circulation. I speak  
as to where it will finally come out. I have not that confi-  
dence in it which induces me to make any effort to enlarge  
its sphere of influence at present. It is exceedingly desirable that  
we should have a Paper in this State of the right, temper,  
I do not know but that Mr. P. may advocate political articles  
in the Herald, or at least, (Garrison like,) permit it to be  
advocated; but I certainly think his mind, to say the least,  
is not sufficiently established & firm - is far too easy and  
vacillating, to have much effect, or exert much influence, in  
regard to that master. Two or three weeks since I observed he  
did come out & protest against your Hr's organization - &

In a recent stand in Massachusetts - & worse indeed, Not the friends of the slave were forgetting his cause & leaving him in his agonies, tears & blast, while they themselves were contending with each other about mere extraneous matters, which had no concern with his deliverance; nor to tell them that the new Society is not in opposition to the old; that the latter is left free and unopposed to do all it can in its own way for the slave - while the former have only bent away from the masters & thrown away the gags, which circumstances, (not to say their brethren) had well nigh imposed upon them, in order that they also might be equally free & unopposed in laboring in all those ways, which they saw fit, for the victim of foul Oppression; nor does it appear of any avail to tell them, & more it is not clear on the man, that, if all abolitionists should adopt the principles of Garrison & act upon them, the cause of the slave would be utterly hopeless, as well as the whole fabric of human government & society in absolute jeopardy; that, therefore, the cause of the slave ought not to be abandoned & deserted on account of those principles or of the man who would propagate them, however sincere as an abolitionist he may have done for the oppressed; - all this seems to be of very little consequence to these persons. One great (to them) over-shining idea fills their minds - i.e., Garrison: Let him think, believe, write, speak, do, what he will - no matter - he must be supported & cheered on if the heavens fall. A man, if he would wish to be considered a true blue abolitionist, must, not only, not oppose Garrison, but he must not act for the slave aside from his influence, or contrary to his wishes, or without his approbation, or at least permission. If he does, he must expect to meet sour looks, wrinkled fore-heads, strange squintings, & to be called a heretic, & scismatic. Now all this looks to me like pretty unintelligible small business, especially for abolitionists. I am utterly sick of it. In my opinion, <sup>the</sup> cause itself is the main thing; & the manners of very little consequence. I am an Abolitionist as the man, who first sounded the trumpet of alarm to arouse from death numberless other guilty

Rev. R. A. Putnam.

Wethersfield N.H. Sept. 28. 1839

Dear Brother Phelps, as also Br. H. Clark,

Several days since I received a letter  
from Br. A. H. Clark on the subject of the new organization  
in your State. & respecting the influence of your principles to  
this State. H. Br. H. Clark wished me to write to you, or to him, on the  
subject. I had intended before I wrote you, to have consulted with  
some of my brethren here, so as to give more definite views; but,  
as I have an opportunity to <sup>to you</sup> send by private conveyance the  
beginning of next week, I wish not to lose it. Besides, I feel  
desirous of learning more fully from you & the friends of the  
cause in N.Y. what precise course would be best. It is well,  
doubtless, for us both to understand each other thoroughly  
before we undertake to act. [You are not mistaken as to the  
fact that in this state many of the most substantial Abolitionists  
are strongly in favor of your Society; but there are also many,  
who probably consider themselves as the most thorough-going &  
utter <sup>abolitionists</sup>, who will go far Garrison & against the new organ-  
ization, at all events. They seem to think that Garrison is  
identified with Anti-Slavery; that is to say, Garrison & Anti-  
Slavery are with them <sup>on almost interchangeable terms</sup>, more syn-  
onymous; & of course, <sup>on any amount</sup>, whether, is opposed to Garrison, is, & must be,  
opposed to Anti-Slavery, or at least cannot be a right  
good Abolitionist. There is a strange sort of non-  
worship about this matter. There is the same kind of blind-  
ing, injurious reasoning, which we see in the pro-slavery  
ranks against Abolition itself. I have been astonished to  
discover so much of it among Anti-Slavery men. It seems to me  
that they are indeed men, — & like other men, quite liable  
to error. It is of little or no use to tell those persons, that,  
previous to the new organization, Anti-Slavery had come